

Bayes, Richard

The G E N U I N E
H I S T O R Y
O F T H E
L I F E
O F

RICHARD TURPIN,

The noted H I G H W A Y M A N,

Who was E x e c u t e d at York for Horse-stealing, under the Name
of John Palmer, on Saturday April, 7, 1739.

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| <p>I. A True Narrative of his Transactions from his Birth to his Marriage and settling at Sufon as a Butcher.</p> <p>II. An Account of his being a Smuggler in the Hundreds of Essex; his turning Dear-stealer; his Exploits with Gregory, Fielder, Rose, Wheeler, and the rest of the Essex Gang.</p> <p>III. His breaking from that Gang, and an humorous Adventure, by Means of which he got acquainted with King.</p> <p>IV. Of his being pursued in White-chaple by Mr. Bayes, where he shot his Companion King by Mistake.</p> | <p>V. A particular Account and Description of their Cave, with the Robberies they committed in those Parts; and Turpin's shooting Mr. Thompson's Man.</p> <p>VI. An Account of his Exploits in Lincolnshire and Yorkshire, with the Manner of his being Apprehended.</p> <p>VII. A Summary Account of his Trial at York Affizes, his Behaviour in Gaol and at the Place of Execution.</p> <p>VIII. The Depositions of two Gentlemen out of Essex to prove him to be R. Turpin.</p> <p>IX. Copies of Letters from his Father to him and his Brother.</p> |
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The Whole collected from well attested Facts, and communicated by Mr. Richard Bayes, at the Green-Man on Epping-Forest, and other Persons of that County:

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TURP

Printed for J. STANDEN, at D' Anvers's Head opposite Serjeants-Inn in
Chancery-Lane.

London: D. Cole of *Westminster*, Gent. maketh Oath and faith, that the Facts and Transactions relating to the Life and History of *Richard Turpin*, were told and related to him by *Richard Bayes*, at the *Green-Man* on *Epping-Forest*, and by other Gentlemen of the County of *Essex*; and that the said several Facts and Transactions are inserted in the History of the Life of the said *Richard Turpin*, Published by *John Standen* at *D'Anvers's* Head in *Chancery-Lane*, and that he communicated the same to no other Person whatever.

Sworn April 23. before me
M. PERRY, Mayor.

D. COLE.

To the PUBLICK.

Green-Man, April 23. 1739.

Observing in an Advertisement in one of the *Daily Papers*, that the Publishers of the History of *Richard Turpin* from his Birth to his Execution, assert, that the Materials for that History were communicated to them by Mr. *Richard Bayes* at the *Green Man* on *Epping-Forest*; Now this is to certify the Publick, That I never did communicate any Account of the Robberies or Transactions of the said *Richard Turpin* to any other Person whatever, except only to the Person who collected his History published by *John Standen*, at *D'Anvers's* Head in *Chancery-Lane*; and that all others are surreptitious and an Imposition on the Publick, As Witness my Hand.

Richard Bayes.

N. B. That which is genuine, and published by *J. Standen*, has the Cut of *Turpin* concealed in his Cave, prefixed to it.

Turpin

T H E
L I F E
O F
RICHARD TURPIN.

IT is suppos'd the World naturally enquires after Persons that have in any Manner been render'd either Famous, or Infamous; for which Reason we think the Account of a Man who for some time past hath been not only the *Terror*, but *Talk*, of a County that makes a considerable Figure in this Nation, cannot be disagreeable. *ESS EX* hath been lately much alarmed at the Enterprizes of *Turpin*, several Families have suffered by him, and others, of *Gregory's Gang*, as our ensuing Narration will relate.

Richard Turpin, who was executed at *York* on *Saturday* the 7th of *April*, 1739; was Son of *John Turpin* of *Hempsted* in *Essex*, who put him to School to one *Smith* a Writing-master; from thence he was placed Apprentice to a Butcher in *White-chaple*, where he served his Time; he was frequently guilty of Misdemeanours, and behaved in a loose disorderly Manner: So soon as he came out of his Time, he married the Daughter of one *Palmer*, and set up for himself at *Suson* in *Essex*, which is about Eleven or Twelve Years ago; where (not having any Credit in the Markets, and No-body caring to trust him) he was

reduced to a Necessity of maintaining himself by indirect Practices, and accordingly very often used to rob the neighbouring Gentlemen of Sheep, Lambs, Oxen, &c. particularly one Time he stole a Couple of Oxen from Mr. *Giles* of *Plaistow*, which he had conveyed to his own House and cut up, but was detected by two of the Gentleman's Servants, who having a Suspicion of him, from some Information or other which they had received, went to his House, and seeing an Ox slaughtered were confirmed in their Suspicion, but in order to be farther assured, enquired where *Turpin* sold the Hides of his Beasts and being inform'd, that he generally sold 'em at *Waltham Abbey*, they went there, and were convinc'd on sight of the Hides, that *Turpin* was the Man who had stole the Oxen and they immediately return'd to *Suson*, which he being appriz'd of, left them in the Fore-room, jump'd out of a Window and made his Escape, when he was gone, his Wife dispos'd of the Carcasses.

Turpin having made his Escape from Justice for that Time, tho' by this means his Character was blown, and he never could entertain a Thought of returning to *Suson*,

Suson, or following his Trade of a *Butcher* in that County, he immediately form'd a Design of commencing *Smugler*; for which Reason, his Wife having supplied him with what small Matter of Money she could raise, he took his way to the Hundreds of *Essex*, where he had not staid long before he got into a Gang of *Smuglers*, he follow'd his new Profession for some time with tolerable Success; but at last Fortune took a Turn, and he lost all that he had acquir'd; upon which not caring to run any more Hazards, he thought it proper to try his Luck some other way: When People are inclinable to Vice they seldom wait long for Opportunities, which was the Case with him, for no sooner had he left off Smuggling than he met with a Gang of Deer-stealers, who finding him to be a Desperate Fellow, and ripe for any Mischief, made no Scruple of admitting him to be One of 'em; but the Hundreds of *Essex* not being so proper for them as the other Part of the Country, they concluded to come up nearer to Town and the Forest, which they accordingly did, and robb'd not only the Forest of Deer, but several Gentlemen's Parks, and by that means got a considerable Sum of Money; 'twas *Turpin's* being engag'd in this Gang that he got acquainted with *Gregory*, *Fielder*, *Rose* and *Wheeler*, and the rest, which was afterwards called the *Essex Gang*; they follow'd Deer-stealing only for some time, but beginning to be too well known by the Keepers, and not finding Money come in so fast as they expected, they form'd themselves into a Body by *Turpin's* Directions, and resolv'd to go round the County at Nights, and whatever House they knew had any thing of Value in it, one was to knock at the Door, which as soon as it was open'd, the others rush'd in and plunder'd the House; nor were they content to take the Money, Plate, Watches

or Rings, but even Household Goods, if they found any they lik'd. In short, about five or six Years ago to such a Pitch were they grown, that they were a Terror not only to the whole County of *Essex*, but to all the neighbouring Counties, as may be known by the Usage Farmer *Lawrence* met with from 'em, whom they robbed of almost all he had, and then debauch'd his Servant Maid. The first Person who was so unhappy as to be serv'd by them in this manner was one Mr. *Strype*, an Old Man that keeps a Chandler's Shop at *Watford*; from whom they took what little Money he had scrap'd together, but did him no further Mischief, so that he was in some measure content; but they did not behave in the same Manner to every one, for their next Attempt was upon a Widow Gentlewoman that lives at *Loughton*, which was a Scheme of *Turpin's*; for he acquainted the Gang that he knew an old Woman at *Loughton*, that he was sure had seven or eight hundred Pounds by her, and D——n her, says he, 'tis as good in our Pockets as hers, and we'll have it. Accordingly the Time was fixt for the Enterprize, and they all set out; when they got to *Loughton*, *Wheeler*, (who upon those Occasions never went into the House with them, but was plac'd as a Scout at the Door) 'twas agreed that he should knock at the Door, which so soon as he had done *Turpin* and his Companions all rush'd in, and the first thing they did was to bind the old Lady, her Son, her Man and Maid; then *Turpin* began to examine her where her Money and Effects were hid, telling her at the same Time that he knew she had Money, and 'twas in vain to deny it, for have it they would; the old Gentlewoman being very loth to part with her Money, persisted in it that she had none, and would not declare any thing more of the Matter. Upon which some of the

Crew were inclinable to believe her, and were sorry for their Disappointment, but *Turpin* as sternuously insisting she had Money as she did that she had none, at last cried, *G—d d—n your Blood, you Old B—b, if you won't tell us, I'll set your bare A—se on the Grate.* She continued Obstinate for all that, imagining he meant only to threaten her, and so very fond she was of her darling Gold, that she even suffer'd herself to be serv'd as he had declar'd, and endur'd it for some time; till the Anguish at last forc'd her to discover, which when she had done they took her off the Grate indeed, and robb'd her of all they could find; some Persons talk of a much larger Sum, but 'tis certain they stole upwards of four hundred Pounds.

The next Place they robb'd was at *Ripple-Side* near *Barking*, a Farmer's, where the People of the House not coming to the Door so soon as they wanted 'em, they broke it open; they first of all, according to their usual Custom, tied the Old Man, the Old Woman, the Servant Maid, and a Son-in-Law of the Old Farmer's coming in unluckily they likewise secur'd them; they afterwards ransack'd the House, and in Money and Things robb'd the old Farmer of about seven hundred Pounds. *Turpin* finding their Booty so considerable, with an Oath, cried out, *Ay! this will do, if it would be always so.*

—For by this Enterprize the whole Gang shar'd about eighty Pounds a Man.

Turpin, flush'd with this Success, encourag'd his Companions to proceed in their Villainies, to be reveng'd on several who had endeavour'd to detect them. Among several others, *Mason* the Keeper upon *Epping-Forest* was pitch'd upon to feel the Effect of their Resentments; for upon Consultation what they should do next, says *Turpin*, there's *Will. Mason* has us'd two or three of us ill, and we'll be reveng'd on

him; accordingly a Time was fix'd when they shou'd go and attack his House; *Turpin* having shar'd so much Money could not refrain from coming to *London* for Pleasure, and by getting drunk, forgot the Appointment with his Companions, and never went near 'em; they waited for him a long Time, but finding he did not come, they determin'd not to be baulk'd in their Designs, and *Fielder* and *Rose* taking upon themselves to command in the Expedition; they all set out to *Mason's*, having first bound themselves in an Oath not to leave one whole piece of Goods in the House. Accordingly having broke open the Door, they beat and abused *Mason* in a most terrible Manner, and when they had beat him as they thought enough, they kick'd him under the Dresser and there left him: The old Man was sitting by the Fire, but upon declaring he knew none of 'em, when they asked him, they did not meddle with him. *Mason's* little Girl in her Fright got out of Bed, and without any Cloaths ran into the Hog-stie and there hid herself. They then went up Stairs and broke every Thing they could lay Hands on, and at last 'spying a Punch-bowl that stood a little out of the way, they broke that, and out dropt a hundred and twenty Guinees, which they took after they had done as much Mischief as they possibly could, they went away very well satisfied.

On Saturday the 11th of January 1735, at seven or eight o'Clock in the Evening, *Turpin*, *Rose*, *Walker*, and three others came to the Door of *Mr. Saunders*, a wealthy Farmer at *Charlton* in *Kent*, and knocked at the Door, enquired if *Mr. Saunders* was at Home; being answered he was, the Door, being opened, they all rush'd in, went directly to the Parlour, where *Mr. Saunders*, his Wife, and some, Friends were at Cards; desired them not

to be frightened, for that they would not hurt their Persons, if they sat still, and made no Disturbance, the first Thing they laid hands on was a silver snuff-Box which lay upon the Table before them, and having secur'd the rest of the company, obliged Mr. *Saunders* to go about the house with them, and open his Closets, and Boxes, and Scrutore, from whence they took upwards of one hundred pounds, in money, and all the Plate in the house, a velvet hood, manteel and other things. Whilst this was doing the servant-maid got loose and ran up stairs, barred herself into one of the rooms, and called out at the Window for assistance, in hopes of alarming the neighbourhood; but one of the rogues ran up stairs after her, and with a poker broke open the Door; then brought her down again, bound her and all the rest of the family, then rifled the house of divers other things of value; and finding in their search some bottles of wine, a bottle of brandy and mince-pies; they all sat down, drank a bottle of wine, eat a mince-pie, and obliged the company to drink a dram of brandy each. And Mrs. *Saunders* fainting away with the Fright, they got her a glass of Water, and put some drops in it, and gave her, and were very careful to recover her from her fright. They staid about two hours in the House, before they pack'd up their plunder, and march'd off with it. But threatened them, that if they stirr'd within two hours, or advertis'd the marks of the Plate, they would murder them. When they concerted this robbery, they met at the George at *Woolwich*, in order to go from thence to put their intentions in execution. And after they had effected their design, they cross'd the water, and brought the goods to an empty house in *Ratcliff* highway, where they divided their plunder.

On Saturday the 18th of January Tur-

pin, *Fielder*, *Walker*, and two others, made an Appointment to rob Mr. *Sheldon's* house near *Croydon* in *Surrey*, and for that purpose, agreed to meet at the Half-moon Tavern at *Croydon*, which they accordingly did in the evening about 6 o'clock, and about 7 went to Mr. *Sheldon's*. *Walker* having some knowledge of the house, going at the Head of his Companions into the yard, perceived a light in the stable, went thither, where they found the coachman dressing the horses, him they bound, and going from thence met Mr. *Sheldon* in the yard whom they seized, and compelled him to shew them the way into the house; where as soon as they entered, they bound Mr. *Sheldon*, and the rest of the Family, and fell to plundering the House; and took from Mr. *Sheldon* eleven Guineas, and several pieces of Plate, jewels, and some other things of value, which they carried off with them; but before they left the place, they returned Mr. *Sheldon* two Guineas of the Money back again; asked pardon for what they had done, and bid him good Night.

On Tuesday the 4th of Feb. Turpin, *Gregory*, *Fielder*, *Rose* and *Wheeler* having formed a design to rob Mr. *Lawrence*, at *Edgware-bury* near *Stanmore* in *Middlesex*, about two o'clock in the afternoon, met at the Black horse in the broad way *Westminster*, near which *Rose* and *Fielder* lodg'd, and set out from thence on horseback to the Nine-pin and bowl at *Edgware*, where they had appointed to meet about 5 o'clock, where they staid until five; during which time their Horses staid in the yard, by which means Mr. *Wood* who keeps the house, had the better opportunity of observing the Horses, so as to remember the same again, when he saw them afterwards in *King-street* in *Bloomsbury* where they were taken. About five o'clock they went from Mr. *Wood's* at the Queen's-head at

at Stanmore, and staid there, from about six until about Seven o'Clock; and then all went away together for Mr. Lawrence's, which was about a Mile from thence, where they got about half an hour after seven: Mr. Lawrence had but just before been paying off some workmen, who were discharged and gone from the house: On their arrival at Mr. Lawrence's, they alighted from their horses at the outergate; and Fielder getting over the hatch into the Sheep-yard, met with Mr. Lawrence's boy just putting up some sheep; him they seiz'd, and presenting a Pistol to him, Fielder said he would shoot him if he offered to cry out, and then took off the boy's garter, and ty'd his hands, and enquiring of him what servants Mr. Lawrence kept, and who was in the House they obliged him to tell them; they told him they would not hurt him, but that he must go to the Door with them, and when they knocked at it, if any Body within should ask, who it was, that the boy was to answer, and bid them open the door to let him in, and they would give him some Money; accordingly they led the Boy to the Door, but he was so terrify'd that he had no power to speak; whereupon Gregory knock'd at the Door, and calling out Mr. Lawrence, the man-servant apprehending it to be some of the neighbours only, open'd the Door, upon which they all rush'd in with Pistols in their hands, crying out, *D———n your blood, how long have you liv'd here*; and immediately seizing Mr. Lawrence and his man, threw a cloth over their Faces, then took the boy and led him into the next room, with his hands ty'd, and setting him down by the fire examin'd him what fire-arms Mr. Lawrence had in the house, and being told there was none but an old gun, they went and fetch'd that, and broke it in Pieces, then took Mr. Lawrence's man, and bound

his hands, led him into a room where the boy was, and made him sit down there; and also bound Mr. Lawrence; Turpin broke down his breeches, and they fell to rifling his pockets out of which they took one Guinea, one Portugal piece of thirty-six shillings, and about fifteen shillings in silver, and his keys. They said that money was not enough, they must have more, and drove Mr. Lawrence up stairs, where coming to a closet, although they had taken the key from Mr. Lawrence before, and had it in their Custody, yet they open the door, and took out thence two Guineas, ten shillings in silver, a silver cup, thirteen silver Spoons, two gold rings, and what they could find; and in their search meeting with a bottle of Elder Wine, they took it, and oblig'd the servants to drink twice of it. Dorothy Street, the maid servant, being in the back-house a churning, and hearing a noise, suspected they were rogues who were got into the House: and in order to save herself she put out the Candle, but they rush'd in upon her, ty'd her hands, and then brought her into the room, where the other Servants were; then rifled the house of all they could get, as linnen, table-cloths, napkins, shirts, and the sheets from off the Beds, trod the Beds under feet, to find if any money was conceal'd therein, and suspecting there was more money in the house, they brought Mr. Lawrence down stairs again, threatened to cut his throat, and Rose put a knife to it, as if he intended to do it. To make him confess what money was in the house, they whip'd him with their hands as hard as they could. One of them took a chopping bill, and threatened to cut off his leg therewith, then they broke his head with their Pistols, and dragg'd him about by the hair of the head. One of them took a kettle of Water off of the fire, and flung it upon him, but it did him no other harm

than wetting him only, by Reason the Maid had just before taken out the greatest Part of the boiling Water and filled it again up with cold. Then they hauled him about again, swore they would rip him up and burn him alive, if he did not tell where the rest of his Money was; then they proceeded to make a further Search, and Gregory swore to the Maid, that she should shew him where the Money was, she told him she did not know of any; but he compelled her to go up Stairs, took her into the Garret, bolted the Door, threw her upon the Bed, swore he would shoot her if she offered to cry out, and then lay with her by Force and Violence; after which he told her they would go to her Master's Son's House, which was next adjoining. In their Search besides the before mentioned Particulars, they met with a Chest of one of Mr. Lawrence's Sons (who happened to be gone abroad in the Morning and was not returned) which they broke open, and took thereout twenty Pounds in money and all his Linnen; then they enquired of the Boy, whether Mr. Lawrence's Son would come home that Night, and being informed that he would, they said they would go and rob his other Son's House, and obliged the Boy to go with them to the Door thereof, but on further Consideration did not go in, but threatened to come again in half an Hour, and that if they then found any Body loose they would kill them, so lock'd them all in the Parlour, then took the Key of the Door and threw it into the Garden. Some of the Goods were afterwards found in Duck-Lane, and others in Thieving Lane, where Rose and Walker were taken.

Although in this Robbery they got about 26l. in Money, in the Whole, besides Plate and Goods, yet they made no fair Distribution of it amongst themselves, for to Wheeler the Evidence, who was set

to Watch Mr. Lawrence and his Servants, whilst the others were rifling the House, his Companions pretended, they had only got three Guineas in the Whole, and about six Shillings and six Pence in silver.

These frequent Robberies being committed in so daring a manner, induced his Majesty to advertise in the Gazette, a Pardon to any one of the Criminals who had been concerned in and entering the House of Joseph Lawrence Senior, at Earlesbury near Edgware, and in binding him, his Man and Maid Servants, and using the said Mr. Lawrence in a barbarous and inhuman Manner, and in ravishing the Maid. And also as a farther Encouragement, promised a Reward of 50l. for every one of the Criminals, who should be discovered and apprehended, to be paid upon the Conviction of the Offender or Offenders.

Notwithstanding which; on the seventh of February, Richard Turpin, John Fielder, Joseph Rose, Humphry Walker, William Busb, and Samuel Gregory, together with John Wheeler, met by appointment at White-hart-Inn, at the upper end of Drury Lane about five o'Clock in the evening, where they agreed upon making an Attempt to rob Mr. Francis a Farmer near Mary-bone; and about half an hour after six, they set out from thence for Mary-bone, where they arrived about half an hour after seven; and whilst they were making their observations of the House, one of them perceiving some body in the cow-house, they went thither and finding one of the men servants there, they seized him and bound him; swearing, they would shoot him if he cried out, or made any noise; and then carried him into the stable where was another of Mr. Francis's men, whom they seized and bound also. Scarce had they done that, before Mr. Francis who had been abroad, and coming home, they met him at the Gate as he was going

going up to his door, three of them laid their Hands upon his Head, Mr. Francis not apprehending them to be rogues, but done in a frolick, only said to them, methinks you are mighty funny, Gentlemen? on which they presented their Pistols to him, and swore they would shoot him if he made opposition or disturbance, and seizing him by the Arms, led him into the stable to his men, where they bound him, and left them under the care of Turpin and Bush, who stood over them with loaded Pistols, whilst the other five went to the House, and knocking at the door, Mr. Francis's Daughter opened it, supposing it to be some of their men: But as soon as the Door was opened, Wheeler and the other four rushed in, and presenting their Pistols at her, threatened to shoot her if she made any disturbance; which the Maid hearing, cried out, Lord, Mrs. Sarah what have yon done? On which one of them struck the Maid, and the other struck Mr. Francis's Daughter, and swore they would murder them if they did not hold their Peace. Mrs. Francis hearing the disturbance, and being apprehensive of some Danger, cried out, Lord, what's the matter? on which Fielder step'd up to her, and cry'd, D——m you for an old Bitch, I'll stop your mouth presently, and immediately broke her head with the handle of his Whip, and then tied her down in a Chair, bleeding as she was. The Maid and Daughter were bound in the Kitchen, and Gregory was set to watch them, who stood guard over them with a Pistol in his hand, to prevent their crying out for assistance, or endeavouring to get their liberty whilst the other four were rifling the house; in it they found, besides other things a silver Tankard, a gold Watch, Chain and Seal, a silver Picture of King Charles I. wain'd with gold, a silver Punch-ladle, a silver strainer, a silver cup, and a pair of

silver Spurs, a coral set in silver, a mourning gold Ring with a Cypher, a gold ring enamell'd with a blue Stone in the middle, and a Diamond on each side, and two Angels holding a Crown, a gold ring set with Diamonds, a gold Ring set with a stone, and four Diamonds, two gold Rings with posies, a Wig, six Handkerchiefs, four shirts, a velvet hat, two Pistols, a piece of gold with a Hole in it, thirty seven guineas and ten Pounds in silver, which they took away with them; as also shirts, stockings, and divers other sorts of goods, but here as they had done before, they cheated one another, for excepting the goods, they divided only 9 l. 2 s. 6 d. amongst them, the guineas were secreted by him that had laid hands on them from the rest of his Companions. They spent about an hour and a half in plundering and rifling the house, whilst Gregory stood centry over old Mrs. Francis, her daughter and maid; and Turpin and Bush over Mr. Francis and the two men servants in the stable, when they had pack'd up their plunder, they threatened the Family, that if they made any outcry, they would come back and murder them, and then march'd off with what they had got.

They had also formed a Design to rob the house of Justice *Ashe* near *Leigh* in *Essex*, upon the information of the Woman who kept company with *Rose*, and with that intention met at a publick house near *Leigh*, and in the evening went to put their design in execution, but not rightly knowing the way into the house, they got to the side of a lane near it, waiting for an opportunity, and with that view tied their Horses against some furze Bushes, and concealing themselves under them, intended to have surprized somebody passing by that way, and to have obliged them to have shewn them the way to the Door; but whilst they were thus lying perdue

there, they heard several Persons riding along together which happened to be some of the neighbouring Farmers, who had been at the Justice's, and over-hearing their discourse, supposed the Justice had other company still remaining at his house, they did not think it adviseable to attempt it at that Time; therefore adjourned their design, which so far proved of advantage to them, that it prevented their being taken, which otherwise they could hardly have avoided, by reason they having been observed in the neighbourhood, were suspected to be Smuglers, and information had been given to the custom-house, and other Officers thereabouts: And a party of Dragoons were out in search after them, whom they met, but not having any thing with them were suffered to pass; whereas if they had committed the Robbery they intended, and been stopp'd by the Soldiers, the Goods upon search would have been found upon them, and tho' they might have been only stopp'd on Suspicion of being Smuglers, they would thereby be discovered to have been house-breakers, and committed accordingly.

These Transactions alarm'd the whole Country, nobody thinking themselves safe; upon which Mr. Thompson, one of the King's keepers, went to the Duke of Newcastle's Office and obtain'd his Majesty's promise of a Reward of one hundred Pounds for whoever should apprehend any of them; this made 'em lie a little more conceal'd, however some of the Keepers, and others, having intelligence that they were all regaling themselves at an Ale-house in an Alley at *Westminster*, they pursued them thither, and bursting open the Door found *Turpin*, *Fielder*, *Rose* and *Wheeler*, and two Women. *Fielder*, *Rose* and *Wheeler*, after a stout resistance, were taken, but *Turpin* made his Escape out of a Window, and

taking his Horse rode away immediately; *Wheeler* made himself an Evidence, and the other two were hang'd in Chains.

The Gang was then broke; and *Turpin* quite left to himself, and notwithstanding, he met with so many Booties, yet his extravagance had pretty well drained his Pockets, he took a Resolution to be concerned in no other Gang, but to go on his own bottom, and with this View he set forward towards *Cambridge*, which he thought would be the best way, as he was not known in that County.

But before he reached his Journey's End, the following odd Encounter got him his best Companion, as he hath often declared. *King* the Highwayman, who had been towards *Cambridge* upon the same Account, was coming back to *London*. *Turpin* seeing him well mounted, and appear like a Gentleman, thought that was the Time to recruit his Pockets, and accordingly bids *King* Stand, who keeping him in Discourse some Time, and dallying with him, *Turpin* swore, if he did not deliver immediately he would shoot him through the Head, upon which *King* fell a Laughing, and said, *What! Dog eat Dog?* — Come, come, Brother *Turpin*, if you don't know me, I know you, and should be glad of your Company. After mutual Assurances of Fidelity to each other, and that nothing should part them but Death, they agreed to go together upon some Exploit, and met with a small Booty that very Day, after which they continued together, committing divers Robberies, for near three Years, till *King* was shot.

King being very well known about the Country, as *Turpin* likewise was, inso-much that as no House would entertain them, they then formed the Design of making their Cave, and to that purpose pitch'd upon a Place enclos'd with a large Thicket, situate between *Loughton Road* and

and *King's-Oak Road*; here they made a Place large enough to receive them and their Horses; and while they lay quite concealed themselves, could see through several Holes made on Purpose, what Passengers went by in either Road, and as they thought proper would issue out and rob them, in such a bold daring Manner, and so frequently, that it was not safe for any one to travel that Road, and the very Higlers were obliged to go armed.. In this Cave they liv'd, eat, drank and lay; *Turpin's* Wife supplied them with Victuals, and frequently stay'd there all Night.

From the Forest, *King* and he once took a Ride to *Bungay* in *Suffolk*, where *Turpin* having seen two young Market-Women receive 13 or 14 l. for Corn, would rob them; *King* dissuaded him from it, telling him they were two pretty Girls, and he would not be concerned in it. *Turpin* swore he would rob them and accordingly did, against the Consent of *King* which occasioned a Dispute between them.

At their Return to their Cave they robb'd a Gentleman of *London*, one Mr. *Bradele*, at *Fairmaid-bottom*, who was taking an Airing in his Chariot, with his two Children: *King* first attacked him; but he being a Gentleman of Spirit, was offering to make Resistance, thinking there had been but one; upon which *King* called *Turpin* by the Nick-Name of *JACK*, and bid him hold the Horses Heads; they took first his Money, which he then readily parted with, but insisted upon not giving his Watch, which he said he would not part with; but the Child, in a Fright persuaded his Father to let them have it; they further insisting on an old Mourning Ring of small Value, which Mr. *Bradele* humourously told them, that it was not worth eighteen Pence to them, but he priz'd it very much; *King* insisted upon having it off, which when he had he re-

turn'd it to him, saying they were more of Gentlemen than to take any Thing a Gentleman valu'd so much. Mr. *Bradele* asked him, If, as he had given him his Ring, he would let him purchase his Watch? Upon which *King* said to *Turpin*, *Jack, here seems to be a good honest Fellow; shall we let him have the Watch? Ay, says Turpin, do just as you will;* and then Mr. *Bradele* enquiring what would be the Price, *King* told him, *Six Guineas, we never sell one for more, if it be worth six and Thirty;* upon which Mr. *Bradele* promised not to discover them; and said, he would leave the Money at the Dial in *Birchin Lane*; when *Turpin* cryed out, *Ay, but King, Insist upon no Questions a'd.*

'Twas about that Time *Turpin* shot Mr. *Thompson's* Man in the following Manner; The Reward for apprehending him had set several on to attempt it; among the rest, this Fellow would needs go in Company with a Higler; *Turpin* was unarmed, standing alone, and, not knowing the Man, took him for one Poaching for Hares, and told him, He would get no Hares near that Thicket; No, says the Fellow, *but I have got a* *Turpin*, and presented his Piece at him, commanding him to surrender; *Turpin* stood talking with him, and creeping up to his Cave, laid hold of his Carbine and shot him Dead, at which the Higler made off. This Man's Death obliged *Turpin* to make off precipitately; so he went farther into the Country, in search of *King*, and sent his Wife a Letter to meet him at a Publick-House in *Hertford*, who accordingly went, with two of Squire *H———*'s Servants; she waited for him about half an Hour, and when he came to the House he asked for her by a fictitious Name, left on Purpose, found she was there, and going to her through the Kitchen, saw a Butcher to whom he owed five Pounds, the Butcher,

cher taking him aside, *Come Dick, says he, I know you have Money now, if you'd pay me it will be of great Service.* Turpin reply'd, his Wife was in the next Room, and she had Money, and he would get some of her and pay him presently. The Butcher appriz'd two or three then present who it was, and that he would get his five Pounds first, and then take him; but Turpin, instead of going to his Wife, jump'd out of the next Window, took Horse, and went away immediately without seeing her, while the Butcher waited some Time in expectation of his having the five Pounds.

From hence he went to King, and one Potter, whom they had then lately taken along with them; they agreed to stay 'till it was Dark, and then set out for London, and coming over the Forest, within about three Hundred Yards of the *Green-Man*, Turpin's Horse began to tire. They overtook one Mr. Major, owner of *White Stockings*, the Race-Horse, and although they were so near the House Turpin ventur'd to rob him, took from him his Whip; and afterwards, finding he had a better Horse than his, made him dismount and change, and stay till he changed Saddles likewise, and then rid towards London. Mr. Major got to the *Green-Man*, and acquainted Mr. Bayes of it, who immediately said, *I dare swear 'tis Turpin has done it; or one of that Crew, and I'll endeavour to get Intelligence of your Horse; this that they have left you is stole, and I would have you advertise it.* This was accordingly done, and the Horse prov'd to have been stole from *Plaistow Marshes*; and the Saddle which he had kept, was stole from one *Arrowsmith*.

This Robbery was committed on Saturday Night, and on Monday following, Mr. Bayes received Intelligence, that such a Horse as Mr. Major had lost, was left

at the *Red-Lyon Inn* in *White-Chapelle* he accordingly went thither, and found it to be the same; and then resolved to wait 'till somebody came to fetch it; Nobody came at the Time it was left for; but about Eleven o'Clock at Night, King's Brother (as it afterwards proved) came for the Horse, upon which they seized him immediately, and taking him into the House, he said, he bought it, and could produce Proof of it. But Mr. Bayes looking on the Whip in his Hand found the Button half broke off, and the Name *Major* upon it, seem'd a Confirmation of the Thing; they charg'd a Constable with him; but he seeming frightened, and they declaring, that they did not believe but that the Horse was for somebody else, and if he would tell them where they waited, he should be released; he told them, there was a lusty Man in a white Duffell Coat waiting for it in *Red Lyon-street*. Mr. Bayes immediately went out and finding him as directed, perceiv'd that it was King, and coming round upon him attack'd him; King immediately drew a Pistol, which he clapp'd to Mr. Bayes's Breast; but it luckily flash'd in the Pan; upon which King struggling to get out his other, it had twist'd round his Pocket and he could not. Turpin, who was waiting not far off on Horseback, hearing a Skirmish came up, when King cried out, *Dick, shoot him, or we are taken by G—d*; at which Instant Turpin fir'd his Pistol, and it mist Mr. Bayes and shot King in two Places, who cried out, *Dick, you have kill'd me*; which Turpin hearing, he rode away as hard as he could. King fell at the Shot, though he liv'd a Week after, and gave Turpin the Character of a Coward, telling Mr. Bayes, that if he had a Mind to take him, he knew that he might then be found at a noted House by *Hackney Marsh*, and that when he rode away, he
bad

had three Brace of Pistols about him, and a Carbine slung: Upon Enquiry it has been found, that *Turpin* did actually go directly to the House which *King* mentioned, and made use of something like the following Expressions to the Man; *S— What shall I do? Where shall I go? D— that Dick Bayes, I'll be the Death of him; for I have lost the best Fellow-Man I ever had in my Life; I shot poor King in endeavouring to kill that Dog.* The same Resolution of Revenge he retained to the last, though without Means of effecting it.

After this he still kept about the Forest, till he was harrass'd almost to Death; for he had lost his Place of Safety, the Cave, which was discovered upon his shooting the Keeper's Man; and when they found his Cave, there was in it two Shirts in a Bag, two Pair of Stockings, Part of a Bottle of Wine, and some Ham; so that being drove from thence, he sculk'd about the Woods, and was once very near being taken, when Mr. *Ives* the King's Huntsman, took out two dry footed Hounds to find him out; but he perceiving them coming, got up in a Tree, and seeing them go underneath him, was then so terrify'd at it, that he took a Resolution of going away that Instant for *Yorkshire*.

An Account of Richard Turpin on his first Coming and Employment in Yorkshire; his Commitment to the House of Correction; his Examination, and Imprisonment in York Castle.

TURPIN, who said his Name was *John Palmer*, came about two Years ago, out of *Lincolnshire* to *Brough*, near *Market Cave* in *Yorkshire*, and staid for some Time at the Ferry House in *Brough*; from thence he went sometimes to live at *North-Cave*, and at other Times at *Welton*; and at these Places he continued a-

bout fifteen or sixteen Months, except a such Times as he went to see his Friend in *Lincolnshire*, at least that was his Pretence. At his Return from those Journeys he used frequently to bring three or four Horses with him, which he sold or swapped for others in *Yorkshire*. While he lived in this Manner at *Brough*, *Cave*, and *Welton*, he often took his Diversion with the Gentlemen of the Country in Hunting and Shooting. Once, as he was returning from shooting, which was the Beginning of *October* last, seeing one of his Landlord's Cocks in the Street, he shot at it, and kill'd it, which one *Hall*, his Neighbour, taking Notice of, said to him, *You have done Wrong, Mr. Palmer, in shooting your Landlord's Cock.* To which *Palmer* replied, *If he would only stay whilst he charged his Piece, he would shoot him too.* Upon which *Hall* went and acquainted the Landlord with what *Palmer* had done and said. The Landlord thereupon immediately went with the said *Hall* to Justice *Crowle*, and obtain'd his Warrant for the apprehending the said *Palmer*; and the next Day, by Virtue of the said Warrant, he was taken into Custody, and convey'd before the Bench of Justices then sitting in their General Quarter Sessions at *Beverley*, and examin'd by the Justices of the *East Riding of Yorkshire*; who demanding Sureties for his good Behaviour, and he refusing to find any, they committed him to the House of Correction; which Commitment was in the Words following,

To the Master, or Keeper, of the House of Correction in Beverley;

WHEREAS it appears to us, upon the Information of divers creditable Persons, that *John Palmer*, of *Welton*, in the *East Riding* in the County of *York*, is a very dangerous Person, and

D

we

we having required Sureties for his good Behaviour until the next General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, to be held for the *East-Riding* of the County of *York*, which he the said *John Palmer* hath refused to find; These are therefore to command you, to receive into Custody the Body of the said *John Palmer*, and him safely keep, until he shall be discharged by due Course of Law; and hereof fail not at your Peril.

Given under our Hands and Seals the third Day of *October*, 1738.

Some Persons of *Brough* and *Welton* having given their Informations to the Justices, that *Palmer* frequently went into *Lincolnshire*, and usually return'd with Plenty of Money, and several Horses, which he sold or exchanged in *Yorkshire*; and therefore had good Reason to suspect that he was either a Highwayman or Horse-stealer; and being desirous to do their Country Justice, and detect Villainy; for these Reasons the Justices, the next Day, went to the said *John Palmer*, and demanded of him, who he was, where he had liv'd, and what was, or had been his Employment? To which he thus answer'd, 'That about two Years ago he had lived at *Long-Sutton* in *Lincolnshire*, and was by Trade a Butcher; that his Father then lived at *Long-Sutton*, and his Sister kept his Father's House there; but he having contracted a great many Debts, for Sheep that proved rotten, in so much that he was not able to pay for them, he was therefore obliged to abscond, and come and live in *Yorkshire*.'

Upon this Confession, the Justices thought it highly necessary to send a Messenger into *Lincolnshire* to examine into the Truth of it; and accordingly order'd Mr. *Appleton*, the Clerk of the Peace, to write a Letter to *Long-Sutton*, and therein relate the whole Affair. This Letter they

sent by a Special Messenger, who gave it to Mr. *Delamere*, a Justice of the Peace, who lived at the same Place. The Answer that Mr. *Delamere* return'd to this Letter, was as follows; That the said *John Palmer*, had lived there about three Quarters of a Year, and was accus'd before him of Sheep-stealing; whereupon he issued out his Warrant against him, who was thereupon apprehended, but made his Escape from the Constable; and soon after such his Escape, Mr. *Delamere* had several Informations lodged before him against the said *Palmer* for Suspicion of Horse-stealing: And that *Palmer's* Father did not live at *Long-Sutton*, neither did he know where he lived, therefore desired *Palmer* might be secured, and he would make farther Enquiry about the Horses so stolen, and would bind over some Persons to prosecute him at the next Assizes.

Mr. *Appleton*, on the Receipt of this Letter from Mr. *Delamere*, immediately sent a Letter to Mr. *Crowle*, who the next Morning, came to *Beverley*, and understanding what a Villain *Palmer* was, he did not think it was safe he should any longer stay in *Beverley* House of Correction, and therefore he was again required to find Sureties; which he not being able to do, his Commitment was made to *York Castle*, and he accordingly was sent the same Morning, namely, *October* the 16th 1738, to the said Prison, hand-cuff'd, and guarded by *John Milner* and *George Smith*, who, pursuant to their Orders, convey'd him to *York-Castle*. When *Palmer* had been a Prisoner in *York-Castle* about a Month, two Persons out of *Lincolnshire*, came and claimed a Mare and Foal, which *Palmer* had sold to Capt. *Dawson* of *Ferraby*, and likewise the Horse on which *Palmer* rode when he came first to *Beverley*, affirming that he had stolen it from them off *Hickington Fen* in *Lincolnshire*. After he

he had been a Prisoner in *York Castle* about four Months, he was discover'd to be *Turpin*, the noted Highwayman, as before related.

A Summary Account of the Trial of John Palmer, alias Paumer, alias Richard Turpin, at the Assizes holden at the Castle of York, March 22, 1738 9, before the Hon. Sir William Chapple, Knt. one of his Majesty's Justices of the King's Bench,

JOH N Palmer, alias, &c. was indicted for stealing a Black Mare and Foal at *Welton*, in the County of *York*, on or before the first Day of this Instant *March*, the Property of *Thomas Creasey*.

Thomas Place, Esq; Recorder of the City of *York*, and *Richard Rowle*, of the *Inner-Temple*, Esq; being Council for the King, open'd the Nature of the Indictment, and examin'd the Witnesses, the first of whom, *Thomas Creasey* (the Owner of the Mare) gave Evidence as follows, viz. That he liv'd at *Heckington* in the County of *Lincoln*; that his Mare fed on *Heckington Common*; that on the 18th or 19th of *August* last, missing them, he hired Men and Horses, and rode forty Miles round about enquiring after them, and had 'em cried in all the Market Towns thereabouts; and the first News he heard of them was from one *John Baxter*, a Neighbour, who told him, he had been at *Pocklington Fair* in *Yorkshire*, and lying all Night at *Brough*, he happened to hear of a Man that was taken up and sent to the

House of Correction at *Beverley* for shooting a Game Cock, who had such a Mare and Foal as this Witness had lost. Upon which Information he went to *Ferryby* near *Beverley*, and put up his Horse at *Richard Grassby's*, who keeps a publick House there; and began to enquire of him about his Mare and Foal. *Grassby* told him there was such a Mare and Foal in their Neighbourhood; which, by the Description he gave of 'em, seem'd to be this Witnesses's; who thereupon describ'd 'em to him with their particular Marks.

After *Creasey* had thus given his Evidence, the Court demanded of the Prisoner if he had any Questions to ask the Witness? The Prisoner answer'd, that he had no Witnesses come that Day, as he expected, and therefore begg'd his Lordship to put off his Trial till another Day. But was told, that if he had spoke, and desired a reasonable Time before the Jury was sworn and charged, it might have been granted him; but it was now too late, and the Jury could not be discharged; but he might ask the Witness any Questions. Upon which the Prisoner said, that this Witness was wrong, because on the 18th of *August* he was in *York Castle*. But the Goaler being call'd, inform'd the Court, that it was *October* before *Palmer* was committed Prisoner to the Castle. The Prisoner then ask'd *Creasey*, if he knew one *Whitehead*; and he replying, yes; why then, said he, he's the Man I bought the Mare and Foal of.

The second Witness, *Captain Dawson*, depos'd as follows. I was one Morning riding to *Welton*, and met a Man leading a Mare and Foal; I ask'd him if they were his? He told me, no; but they belonged to one *Palmer*. I ask'd him, if he would dispose of the Foal? He said, *Palmer* was coming up the Street. I turned about and saw him; and he told me they were

were his, and were bred in *Lincolnshire*. Task'd, if he would dispose of the Foal? He said, he said, he would rather sell the Mare with her. I replied, I had no Occasion for the Mare, only the Foal, and ask'd the Price of that? He said, Three Guineas. I told him, it was too much to ask for the Foal, and offer'd him Two Guineas, and said, I would give no more, upon which I went about my Business, and afterwards I observed the Prisoner coming up a Hill with a Mare and Foal; and as I was going along, a Countryman said, Sir you have been about Bargaining, and bid two Guineas for the Foal; you'll see him come back again, and, if you please, I fancy you may have it. I said, let him come to my House, and I will pay him two Guineas. So about two o'Clock in the Afternoon, *Palmer* came with the Mare and Foal, and I had them put both in a Stable, and paid for the Foal two Guineas and then he told me, I might buy the Mare, for she was worth the Money. I said I had no Occasion for the Mare; but the Prisoner being a little pressing about it, I told him I had a Horse of no great Value, and if he would change or let me have the Mare to nurse the Foal, I would rather do it. He did not like the first Proposal, but I told him I would not take the Mare except he would have the Horse; so I gave him four Guineas; but being obliged to go to my Regiment, I left the Place soon after, and gave *Richard Grabsby* the Care of the Mare, with Liberty to work her. To all which the Prisoner had nothing to reply.

Richard Grabsby the third Witness, depos'd, that he had known the Prisoner about two Years; knew of no settled Way of Living he had; and though a Dealer, yet he was a Stranger, and lived like a Gentleman. Said; he had the Mare and Foal of *Captain Dawson*; that he work'd

her; and that she had been challenged by *Thomas Creasy*.

George Goodyear, the fourth Witness gave an Account of the Time when the Mare and Foal were lost, and that they were the same which the Prisoner had sold to *Captain Dawson*.

The Prisoner being ask'd by the Court how he came by the Mare, and Foal, thus answer'd: I was going up to *Lincolnshire* to *John Whitehead*; there was a Mare and Foal before his Door. This was within a Mile of *Hickington*. The Man had been at a Fair, and bought a Mare and Foal, and wanted to sell them again. This was in *August*: I asked the Price and gave him seven Guineas for Mare and Colt; he gave me half a Crown; I staid all Night, and came away next Morning. I went to all Markets, and wherever I went I rode with 'em, without ever being challenged. I have sent a *Sub-pena* to a Man and his Wife, who were present when I bought them. I cannot tell his Name, and therefore desire a longer Time that these Witnesses may be examined. I also sent a special Messenger with a Letter.

[*Mr. Griffith* the Goaler, being called, said, *The Messenger is come back.*]

The Prisoner being ask'd what he had to say to that? He was silent.

Being ask'd, if he had any Witnesses present? Said, he had not, but To-morrow he should; and he was sure no Man could lay any ill to his Charge in *Yorkshire*; however, he desired the following Persons might be call'd, *viz. William Thompson*; Esq; one *Whitehead*, and one *Gill*; but none of them appearing; and being told the Jury could not stay, he said, I thought I should have been remov'd to *Essex*; for I did not expect to be tried in this County; therefore I could not prepare Witnesses to my Character.

The Judge then gave his Charge to the Jury.

Being ask'd how he came to change his Name, he said, his Reason was, that having been long out of Trade, and run himself in Debt, he changed his Name to his Mother's, which was *Palmer*; and that before he came into *Lincolnshire*, his Name was *Richard Turpin*.

The Jury, without going out, brought in their Verdict, *Guilty*.

John Palmer, alias, &c. was a second Time indicted for stealing a Black Gelding the Property of *Thomas Creasey*: The Fact being plainly proved, and the Prisoner having nothing to say in his Defence, the Jury found him guilty of the Indictment.

To prove that this *Palmer* was *Richard Turpin* the noted Highwayman, Mr. *James Smith* and Mr. *Edward Saward* who went to *York* Assizes from *Effex*, by Order of the Justices of that County, being call'd upon to give their Evidence, depos'd as follows. And first Mr. *James Smith*, being sworn, gave this Account, That he knew the Prisoner at the Bar ever since he was a Child; that his Name was *Richard Turpin*, and that he was born at *Hempstead* in *Effex*; that he knew his Father, and all his Relations, and that he married one of his (this Deponent's) Father's Maids. That it was about five Years since he saw him last, that he taught him to write for about three Quarters of a Year. That the Occasion of his (this Deponent's) coming to *York* Assizes was this: Happening to be at the Post-Office, he saw a Letter directed to *Turpin's* Brother-in-Law, who, as it was said, would not loose (or open) the Letter and pay Postage; and on that Account taking particular Notice thereof, he thought at first he remember'd the Superscription, and concluded it to be the Hand-writing of

the Prisoner *Turpin*; whereupon he carried the Letter before a Magistrate, who broke it open (the Letter was subscribed *John Palmer*) and found it sent from *York* Castle. This Deponent knew his Hand, having seen several of *Dick Turpin's* Bills. A Letter being produced in Court, he was ask'd whether it was *Turpin's* Letter? He answer'd, it was, and that this was the Cause of his coming down; and the Reason of his taking Notice of it was, his seeing the *York* Stamp upon the Letter. That on his coming to *York* Castle, on the first View of him, he pointed him out from all the rest of the Prisoners. And further; he knew him when he work'd with his Father, who was a Butcher, which Trade he, the Son afterwards set up at *Booker's Hill* in *Effex*, left it about six Years since, and then kept a publick House; but what became of him afterwards he knew not, only the last Time he saw him, which was about five Years ago, he sold him (the Prisoner,) a Grey Mare; and knew him to be the very *Richard Turpin*, the very Son of *John Turpin*, of the Town of *Hempstead*.

Mr. *Saward*, the other Person from *Effex*, being ask'd by the Court what he knew concerning the Prisoner, depos'd as follows: I have known the Prisoner about two and twenty Years, he was born at the *Bell*, his Father kept a Publick House, I knew him after he was set up, and have bought a great many good Joins of Meat of him. I saw him frequently at *Hempstead*, and was with him often at his House there, and after he left it he came backwards and forwards. The last Time I saw him was about five or six Years ago; and I know the Prisoner at the Bar to be *Dick Turpin*, the Son of *John Turpin*, who keeps the *Bell* at *Hempstead*. When I spoke to him in the Castle I knew him again, and he confess'd he knew me, and said to me

two or three Times, *Let us bung our Eyes in Drink*; and I drank with him.

Turpin denied that he knew this *Edward Saward*, but seem'd at last to own that he had some Knowledge of *Smith*.

C O P Y of a Letter from *Richard Turpin* after his Condemnation to his Father.

Dear and honoured Father,

THE Witnesses I call'd to my Character was *William Thompson*, Esq; *Mr. Whitehead* and *Mr. Gill*, who not being so kind to appear as I expected, I have the Misfortune to acquaint you, that I was convicted the Day before Yesterday at the Assizes, and am to suffer the 7th of *April* next for Horse-stealing. If you have any Love remaining for your once dear Son, I hope either you or my Brother will go to *Colonel Watson* or *Madam Peck*, and if possible prevail on them to intercede for me, that I may get it off for Transportation; I have no other Hopes left but this, and this my last Petition.

From your unfortunate Son,

York Castle March 24, 1739

Richard Turpin

C O P Y of a Letter from *John Turpin* to his Son *Richard Turpin*, Prisoner in *York Castle*.

Dear Child March 29, 1739.

I Received your Letter this Instant, with a great deal of Grief, according to your Request, I have writ to your Brother *John* and *Madam Peck*, to make what Intercession can be made to *Colonel Watson*, in order to obtain Transportation for your Misfortune; which had I 100*l*. I would freely part with it to do you good; in the mean Time my Prayers for you, and for God's Sake, give your whole Mind to beg of God to pardon your many Trans-

gressions, which the Thief upon the Cross received Pardon for at the last Hour, though a very great Offender. The Lord be your Comfort, and receive you into his eternal Kingdom.

I am your distressed, yet Loving Father.

Hempstead,

John Turpin.

P. S All our Loves to you, who are in much Grief to Subscribe our Selves your distressed Brother and Sister with Relations,

C O P Y of a Letter from *John Turpin Senior*, to *John Turpin Junior* his Son, being the same, referred to in the foregoing, to his Son *Richard*.

Dear Son,

Hempstead, Mar, 2739.

I Received a Letter from your Brother *Richard*, the 7th Instant, dated *March 24*, and he is to suffer the 7th of *April*, is on *Saturday* Sevennight at *York*, on the Suspicion of stealing a Horse, or else a Mare, his Evidences not appearing according to Promise. And now his last Petitions are, that I or you, would go to *Colonel Watson* in order to obtain Transportation. Tho' he hath been remiss in many Things, yet let your Bowels of Compassion yearn towards him. I'd have you, as abovementioned, and be as quick as possible. We are all at present in Health, but deeply concerned to acquaint you with this from your

Dear Father,

John Turpin.

A Copy of the Letter by Means of which he was discover'd to be the Real *Turpin*, and which occasion'd *Mr. Smith* the Writing-Master's going to *York*.

Dear Brother, *York Feb. 6, 1738.*

I AM sorry to acquaint you that I am now under Confinement in *York Castle* for

for horse-stealing. If I could procure any evidences from *London*, to give me a Character, that would go a great way towards my being acquitted; I have not been long in this County before my being apprehended, so that it would pass off the reader; for Heaven's sake, dear Brother, don't neglect me, you'll know what I mean when I say

I am Yours,

JOHN PALMER.

His Behaviour in York Castle:

THE near Approach of Death, generally causes the most awful Apprehensions, even in Persons whose Lives have been governed with the greatest Rectitude, and whose Consciences are not burden'd with the Guilt of any wilful Transgressions. It is therefore infinitely surprizing that Men, who, for many Years successively, have employ'd all their Talents and Endeavours in robbing, plundering, and destroying the Lives and Properties of their Fellow Creatures, should, without any Emotion or Concern, be able to look Death in the Face, contemn the Horrors of that gloomy Hour, and launch out into the boundless Ocean of Eternity, without making the least Provision for so long and hazardous a Voyage. To what Causes can this unaccountable Phrenzy, or rather, Stupifaction, be imputed? they must either have work'd themselves into a firm Persuasion that there is no God to take Cognizance of their Actions; that there are no Rewards or Punishments hereafter; or else their Consciences, by a long Course of vicious Practices, are so harden'd and stupified, that it is impossible for the Precepts of Religion, and the Consideration

of a Future State, to make any Impressions upon them. For even the Light of Nature informs us of the Difference between Right and Wrong; that we have no Title to the Property of another Man; and that in depriving him of it, we do him a positive Injury. Justice and Injustice are wrote in indelable Characters on the Mind of Man; and whenever he attempts to erase or blot them out, it is a manifest and sensible Violence upon the Conscience; but if this Violence be often repeated, Conscience will at length lose its Active Faculty, and in Time be quite dormant. This, we may reasonably suppose, was the Case of the unhappy *Turpin*; who though one of the most notorious Offenders, that this Age has produc'd; yet, after Sentence of Death was pass'd upon him, was as jovial, as merry, and as frolicsome, as if he had been perfectly at Liberty, and assured of an hundred Years of Prosperity to come; and went off the Stage with as much Intrepidity and Unconcern as if he had been taking Horse to go a Journey.

But to come to some Particulars. *Turpin* being committed Prisoner to *York Castle*, as has been before related, liv'd in as much Pleasure as the Liberties of the Prison would afford, eating, drinking, and carousing, with any Body that would spend their Time with him. Neither did he alter his Behaviour even after his Condemnation. After it was rumour'd abroad that he was the *Turpin*, who had render'd himself so notorious for his Robberies in the Southern Parts of *England*, abundance of People from all Parts resorted daily to see him. It being about that Time a Subject very much disputed in all Companies and Conversations whether this Man was the real individual *Turpin*, the Highwayman or not, a certain young Gentleman, who pretended to know him, went one

Day,

Day to see him, to Satisfy himself if he was the very Man, as reported, and having view'd him very circumspectly, he told the Keeper he would lay him a Wager of Half a Guinea, that this Man was not *Turpin*. Which *Turpin* hearing, whisper'd the Keeper in the Ear, *Lay him the Wager; I'll go your Halves*.

He continu'd his mirthful Humour to the last, spending his Time in joking, drinking, and telling Stories. He seem'd to pay but little Regard to the serious Remonstrances and Admonitions of the Reverend Clergymen who attended him, and whatever Remorse he had upon his Conscience, for his past Villainies, he kept it to himself, not expressing the least Concern at the melancholly Circumstances he was in.

A few Days before his Execution, he bought himself a new Fustian Frock and a Pair of Pumps, in order to take his Leave of the World in as decent a Manner as he possibly could.

The Manner of his Behaviour at the Place of Execution.

THE Morning before *Turpin's* Execution he gave 3*l*. 10*s*. amongst five Men, who were to follow the Cart as Mourners, with Hatbands and Gloves, and gave Gloves and Hatbands to several Persons more. He also left a Gold Ring and two Pair of Shoes and Clogs to a married Woman at *Brough*, that he was acquainted with; though he at the same Time acknowledg'd he had a Wife and Child of his own.

He was carried in a Cart to the Place

of Execution, on *Saturday April 7th, 1739*, with *John Stead*, condemn'd also for Horse Stealing; he behav'd himself with amazing Assurance, and bow'd to the Spectators as he pass'd: It was remarkable that as he mounted the Ladder, his right Leg trembled, on which he stamp'd it down with an Air, and with undaunted Courage look'd round about him, and after speaking near Half an Hour to the *Topsman*, threw himself off the Ladder, and expired in about five Minutes.

His Corpse was brought back from the Gallows about Three in the Afternoon, and lodged at the *Blue Boar* in *Castlegate*, 'till Ten the next Morning, when it was buried in a neat Coffin in *St. George's Church-Yard* without *Fisbergate* Postern, with this Inscription, *J. R. 1739, R. T. aged 28** The Grave was dug very deep, and the Persons whom he appointed his Mourners, as above-mention'd, took all possible Care to secure the Body; notwithstanding which on *Tuesday* Morning, about three o'Clock, some Persons were discover'd to be moving off the Body, which they had taken up; and the Mob having got Scent where it was carried to, and suspecting it was to be anatomiz'd, went to a Garden in which it was deposited, and brought away the Body through the Streets of the City, in a Sort of Triumph, almost naked, being only laid on a Board, cover'd with some Straw, and carried on four Men's Shoulders, and buried it in the same Grave, having first fill'd the Coffin with slack'd Lime.

* He confess'd to the Hangman, that he was 33 Years of Age.